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Overview for Financial Assistance to Partially Fund Towns, Cities, or Mosquito Control District's Mosquito Control Activities

RSA 141-C:25 appropriates funds for allocation to towns, cities, and mosquito control districts (MCD) to supplement resources for local mosquito control. Funds are intended to aid in the mitigation of public health threats of mosquito-borne disease (e.g., West Nile virus – WNV, Eastern Equine Encephalitis – EEE). Towns, cities, or MCDs in which the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) has declared a mosquito-borne threat to the public, AND mosquito control activities are appropriate to mitigate the threat, may apply for funding. An application for financial assistance must be filed with the NH DHHS. Application procedures and required documentation are discussed in this document.

Please note that this document is meant to provide guidance to local officials, and is not a substitute for the specific legal requirements found in RSA 141-C and administrative rule He-P 308.

Declaration of Threat:

The Commissioner of the NH DHHS, in consultation with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and with the concurrence of the Governor, may declare a mosquito-borne threat to the public when a town, city or MCD has documented positive arboviral activity (i.e., EEE-positive mosquito pool, non-human mammal, or human), confirmed by DHHS' Division of Public Health Services, for the current year in its respective or adjacent town, city, or MCD.

Upon consultation with the Governor, the Commissioner may waive this requirement if the current epidemiology of the disease warrants such action.

Declaration of a threat by the Commissioner is a prerequisite for the receipt of financial assistance. It is not necessarily an endorsement of the use of adulticides.

Use of Adulticides:

The choice to utilize chemicals aimed at controlling adult mosquitoes (adulticide) is a local decision made at the town, city or MCD level. Local entities need to consider many factors when determining if adulticide is appropriate for a given time and place, including current defined risk and spatial human and at-risk population distribution of the area. Additional surveillance information (e.g., mosquito surveillance) may be helpful in identifying the current disease risk and appropriateness of adulticide use. DHHS will provide consultative services at the request of a local entity.

The NH DHHS strongly believes integrated pest management (IPM) should be used to control mosquito-borne public health threats. This means that a certain defined risk needs to exist before particular control methods are recommended. Different responses may be made as different risks are identified. These risks are discussed under the Phased Response section of the State Arboviral Illness, Surveillance, Prevention, and Response plan.

Awarding Financial Assistance:

In order to be eligible for financial assistance, the Commissioner must first have declared a threat in the town, city or MCD.

Second, the entity must have a comprehensive mosquito control plan approved by the Commissioner. The plan must include a public awareness campaign that focuses both on prevention and on public education regarding the health risks associated with mosquitoes. The public awareness plan should complement that done by NH DHHS on a Statewide level and be specific to the area submitting the plan.

Third, the entity must submit a completed application for financial assistance to NH DHHS before December 1 of the calendar year in which expenses were incurred. NH DHHS will issue a Letter of Award within 30 working days of December 1, indicating funding granted/not granted and reason for the decision (funding subject to approval by Governor and Council).

Any allocated funds must be used for mosquito control aimed at the identified threat and can only be expended on activities targeting the abatement of mosquitoes through the application of pesticides aimed at mosquito larvae or adult mosquitoes. Funding will not be granted for nuisance mosquito control activities (e.g., control aimed at mosquitoes for reasons other than to protect the health of the public). Applicants must provide a justification for why funding assistance is necessary. Funds requested should not exceed 25% of the eligible expenses from mosquito control activities. Expenses incurred prior to the declaration and/or after the declaration of the threat are eligible for reimbursement. Decisions to grant funding requests and amount of funding granted will be based on the nature and degree of the threat, nature and degree of the city, town, or MCD's mosquito control activities, and availability of funding through the appropriation per RSA 141-C:25.